

## BYLAWS of the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

*Governing All Contests Between Teams Representing Member  
Schools*

*(Case situations refer to rulings and interpretations used to  
interpret and administer these bylaws which can be found in the  
Case Situation section of the Handbook. Where possible, additional  
cross-referencing information has been included).*

### DIVISION I ELIGIBILITY RULES

#### Bylaw 1. Responsibility for Eligibility

The Principal of a school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters in the school that concern eligibility, and inter-school contests. The Principal of each member school may annually designate an individual at the school to serve as the Designated Representative for the purpose of conducting the interscholastic program at that school. The Principal or Designated Representative shall sign all forms requiring authorized signature. If a member school principal fails to make the designation prior to August 31, the building principal shall automatically be the Designated Representative for the current year.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

#### Bylaw 2. Physical Examination, Parental Consent and Insurance

##### Sec. 1) Physical Examination and Parental Consent Requirements

The Superintendent or Principal shall have each student who is trying for a place as a participant on an athletic team or cheerleading squad present a physician's certificate certification signed by a physician, physician's assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or chiropractor if performed in the scope of practice (as defined in KRS Chapter 312) which shall state that he/she is physically fit to participate without undue risk. The parent's consent for the child's participation and acknowledgment of receipt of the eligibility rules as promulgated by the Association and Kentucky Board of Education regulations in writing shall also be required.

##### Sec. 2) Requirement for Insurance

Any student, prior to participation or trying for a place on an athletic team or cheerleading squad shall have in place medical insurance with coverage limits up to the deductible of the KHSAA Catastrophic Insurance program and such insurance shall remain in force throughout participation. It is the responsibility of each member school to ensure and certify that each student has insurance coverage throughout the school year.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

#### Bylaw 3. Age

##### Sec. 1) Age Restriction

Pursuant to KRS 156.070 (2) (e), a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition. A student who becomes nineteen (19) on or after August 1 shall remain eligible for the entire school year.

##### Sec. 2) Waiver Provision

The Board of Control and the Commissioner may waive the provisions of this regulation and the student shall be eligible for high school athletics in Kentucky if the written documentation is provided to clearly demonstrate that the student:

- Qualified for exceptional children services and had an individual education program developed by an admissions and release committee (ARC) while the student was enrolled in the primary school program;
- Was retained in the primary school program because of an ARC committee recommendation; and
- Has not completed four (4) consecutive years or eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility following initial promotion from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9).

The Board of Control and the Commissioner may not adopt administrative procedures that allow for waiver of this rule under any other condition.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

#### Bylaw 4. Enrollment

##### Sec. 1) Maximum Number of Semesters

a) Students promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9) shall have four (4) consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date of first such promotion by the school provided the student is eligible according to this and all other Association bylaws. Such eligibility shall conclude with the completion of the spring sports season following the fourth year. No additional eligibility may be granted in a case where the grant would allow a student to compete in all or part of the fifth competitive season in a single sport following the initial promotion by the school from grade eight (8).

b) The Commissioner or Board of Control through the Due Process Procedure, may grant additional eligibility in the case where it has been documented by the attending physician, Principal and Superintendent that severe illness or injury has prevented the student from receiving necessary education services and the right to an education has therefore been impacted rather than simply the loss of athletic privilege. Such grant of eligibility may only be made in the cases in which the student-athlete would remain eligible by all other Association bylaws. Nothing about this provision shall include additional eligibility strictly for loss of participation due to sports related injuries. No additional eligibility may be granted in a case where the grant would allow a student to compete in all or part of the fifth competitive season in a single sport following the initial promotion by the school from grade eight (8).

c) No student having been enrolled in the fourth (4th) grade or in any grade through twelfth (12th) shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) for more than a total of one (1) year in each grade and applicable eligibility shall begin in the first year enrolled in that grade. Students repeating a grade for any reason are ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the high school level (grades 9 through 12) during the second year in that grade. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the loss of one of the four years of eligibility after being promoted from grade nine (9). Policies regarding the participation of repeating students at the levels of play below high school interscholastic athletics shall be determined by the school council pursuant to KRS 160.345 (2) (i).

d) Pupils in grades 4-8 may play on the high school team if such participation is not in conflict with Section (c) above, and the time so played shall not be counted on the eight (8) semester limit. EXCEPTION: Students below grade nine (9) may not participate on the varsity team in contests in the sports of football or soccer, and students enrolled below grade seven (7) may not participate on the varsity level in wrestling. The provisions of this restriction shall not apply to non-varsity teams participating in these sports.

##### Sec. 2) Responsible Parties

Any public elementary or secondary school or school employee or official who knowingly allows participation of an ineligible player under the provisions of this bylaw, or who, through reasonable diligence, should have known of such ineligibility, shall be considered in noncompliance with state accreditation standards or guilty of willful neglect of duty or breach of contract. Such shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches; such as, but not limited to an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent, or a school board member.

##### Sec. 3) Deadline for Enrollment

On Friday of each grading period, a student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) must be enrolled as a full-time student in at least four hours of instruction as provided in Kentucky Board of Education regulation 702 KAR 7:125 (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation at the member school he/she desires to represent in order to be eligible for athletics.

A student must have enrolled as a bona fide full-time undergraduate student no later than twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the semester to be eligible during that semester.

#### Sec. 4) Enrollment Elsewhere

No student who is enrolled or connected with any other school than the one he/she represents shall take part in any contest. In the case of an all-boys high school, girl cheerleaders from affiliated neighboring girls school may be accepted.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

#### **Bylaw 5. Minimum Academic Requirement**

##### Sec. 1) Proper Grade Level Requirement for Students in All School Districts

On the first day of each school year, a student must be at his/her proper grade level. To be considered to be at the proper grade level, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time student during the previous grading period, and must be on schedule to graduate with his/her class on the first day of school. For the verification of this provision, all course work, including summer and correspondence work, must be complete by the first day of the school year for the student body.

##### a) Eligibility During First Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the ninth grade to be considered to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have been promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

##### b) Eligibility During Second Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 10) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received twenty (20) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

##### c) Eligibility During Third Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 11) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received forty-five (45) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

##### d) Eligibility During Fourth Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 12) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received seventy (70) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

##### Sec. 2) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements

The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) above may be reinstated a maximum of one time. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the year he/she is ineligible. He/she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he/she passes twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent year.

##### Sec. 3) Continual Progress During the School Year

On a weekly basis, a student shall also be passing (cumulatively for the credit period) in at least four hours of instruction as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. On its membership form, each member school shall designate the day of the week, approved and documented through local policies, that the grades shall be examined for the student-athletes within that school in order to make this determination. Absent any other determination, this weekly check of grades shall be conducted on each Friday of each grading period or on the last day of classes preceding that particular Friday if no classes are conducted on that particular Friday. No special tests or recitations

are to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

##### Sec. 4) Pre-Secondary School Students

Pre-secondary school students (grades 4-8) participating in athletics representing a KHSAA member school shall be passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which they are currently enrolled and be in compliance with all other bylaws in order to be eligible.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

#### **Bylaw 6. Transfer Rule - Domestic Students**

##### Sec. 1) Domestic Student Transfer

Any student who has been enrolled in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and has participated in any varsity contest in any sport at any school following enrollment in grade nine (9) and who then transfers schools shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any level in any sport for one year from the date of enrollment in the new school.

~~[Any student entering grade (7) in 2009-2010 or later who has participated in a varsity contest in any sport representing a member school while being enrolled in grades seven (7) or eight (8) and who then enrolls at a different member school (grade nine or above) shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any level in any sport for the first year of enrollment.]~~

The Commissioner has discretion (but is not required) to waive the period of ineligibility set forth above if one or more of the following exceptions in Section 2 has been met. Determinations of whether a student shall be granted a waiver pursuant to this rule shall be based on the circumstances existing as of the date of enrollment at the new school. ~~[The KHSAA shall not recognize as grounds for a waiver of the period of ineligibility an argument that the educational needs of the transferring students would be better served through a transfer.]~~

##### Sec. 2) Discretionary Exceptions for Waiver

a) **BONA FIDE CHANGE IN RESIDENCE** - The period of ineligibility may be waived if there has been a bona fide change in residence by the parents and student that precedes a student's change of schools.

For purposes of this bylaw, a bonafide change of residence means the moving of the permanent residence of the entire family of the student and his/her parents from one school district or defined school attendance area into another school district or defined school attendance area prior to a change in enrollment of the student. A student who becomes emancipated does not have a bona fide change of residence by virtue of his/her emancipation and change of residence for purposes of this bylaw.

b) **DIVORCE** - The KHSAA will not recognize a legal separation as grounds for waiver of the provisions of this bylaw. The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event of a dissolution of marriage (i.e. a final and legally binding divorce decree from a court of competent jurisdiction) of the parents and a change in the residence of the student pursuant to a court order granting custody of the child to one of the parents with whom the student shall reside. In the event joint custody is awarded to both parents, for purposes of this bylaw, the student shall initially be eligible where either parent resides. After initially establishing eligibility with one parent, all subsequent transfers will require a period of ineligibility of one year. If neither parent retains the former residence, the parents shall designate one of their new residences (mother or father) for the purpose of this bylaw, such designation to be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner. If a student subsequently decides to return and reside with the other parent in a different school district following this initial designation, the student shall be ineligible for one year.

c) **GUARDIANSHIP/CHANGE OF CUSTODY** - The KHSAA shall not recognize guardianship or similar arrangements made, for purposes of this bylaw. The period of ineligibility may be waived where it is shown that custody of the student has been taken from one or both parents and given to the other parent or a third person by a court of competent jurisdiction and under circumstances indicating: (1) the parent(s) is/are unfit or (2) the court finds that the health and welfare of the student would be better served by the change in custody.

d) **DEATH** - The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event the

death of one or both of the student's custodial parents creates such circumstances that the transfer to another secondary school is deemed appropriate.

- e) **BOARDING SCHOOLS** - The period of ineligibility may be waived on a one-time basis for students entering a boarding school on a full time basis as a boarding school student.
  - f) **NON ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FOR AN ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR** - The period of ineligibility may be waived in the event that the transferring student did not participate in an interscholastic contest at any level in any sport while enrolled in grades nine through twelve at the sending school during the entire academic school year immediately preceding the change in schools.
  - g) **REASSIGNMENT BY BOARD OF EDUCATION** - The period of ineligibility may be waived if the student has changed schools through a properly documented reassignment of the Board of Education to another school in the district. To meet this exception for a reassignment, reasons for the assignment may include, but are not limited to, the closing or opening of a school due to consolidation, merger, opening of a new school, or another type or opening or closing or assignment through KRS 158.6455 or other applicable adopted regulation. Such assignment may be to the public school district should a private, parochial or independent school close.
  - h) **TRANSFER FROM NON-MEMBER SCHOOL** - The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student transferring from a non-member school located in Kentucky whose athletic participation has been limited primarily to other non-member schools.
  - i) **MILITARY ASSIGNMENT** - The period of ineligibility may be waived for a student transferring in a situation where documentation is presented to verify that the change in education and living arrangements is directly related to an order from any branch of the United States military service, including the reserve components.
- Sec. 3) Specific Restrictions Resulting in Denial of Waiver**  
Satisfying of one of the exceptions (a through i) will not be considered valid and a waiver of the period of ineligibility shall not be granted—
- a) If the change in schools is to nullify or circumvent the actions of representatives or rules of the previous school or if the student left the sending school under penalty which would have resulted in their ineligibility at the sending school;
  - b) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions occurs after the enrollment at the new school;
  - c) If the change in schools is motivated in whole or part by a desire to participate in athletics at the new school;
  - d) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions is used or manipulated for the purpose of gaining athletic eligibility;
  - e) If the satisfying of one of the exceptions by the student and the parent(s) does not reasonably precipitate a transfer to the new school.

**Sec. 4) Other Transferring Student Restrictions and Procedures**

- a) The Commissioner may, as he/she deems necessary, appoint or hire a committee or investigator to conduct any inquiry or investigation concerning any issues arising under this bylaw or any other bylaw.
- b) If any member school files a written objection to the factual validity of the certification before the conclusion of the period of time to which the period of ineligibility would normally apply, along with the specific, detailed basis for such, then a complete investigation shall be conducted by the KHSAA and a ruling shall be issued through the Commissioner's office.
- c) No student enrolled in grades 4-12 who has participated in a first team game shall be eligible to represent a second member school during that school year unless that student would qualify for a waiver of the period of ineligibility in accordance with provisions (a) through (i) above.
- d) A student is ineligible for athletics in this state if he/she transfers from another state if he/she was or would have become ineligible in the state from which he/she transfers.

**Bylaw 7. Transfer Rule - Non-Domestic Students**

**Sec. 1) Foreign Exchange Students**

Foreign exchange students attending school in Kentucky shall be considered ineligible for the first calendar year following enrollment.

- a) If placed in a KHSAA member school under the auspices of approved student exchange programs or in other circumstances approved by the Board of Control within Board policy, these students may be declared eligible and not be subject to the initial one-year period of ineligibility.
- b) In order to be considered for a waiver, the following conditions must exist
  - 1) The student shall be in compliance with all U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations;
  - 2) The student shall be in the first and only year as an exchange student;
  - 3) The student shall not be a graduate of a the 12th or terminating grade or its' equivalent in either the U.S. or his/ her home country;
  - 4) The student shall be in possession of a complete transcript of records that has been translated into English prior to the request for eligibility;
  - 5) The student shall be in possession of a J-1 student education visa issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service;
  - 6) The student's placement must not have been a "direct placement" into a KHSAA member school;
  - 7) The student's host family shall not pay any tuition or fee normal to the attendance at the KHSAA member school, all such fees shall be paid by the student's family;
  - 8) All travel fees shall be paid by the student's family; and
  - 9) The student's host family shall not include members of the coaching staff at the KHSAA member school at which participation is desired and shall not include exchange agency representatives.
- c) To be considered for approval by the Board of Control, a foreign exchange program shall assign students to schools by a method that ensures that no student, school or interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes.
- d) The student, the principal or designated representative of the member school, and a representative of the placement agency shall sign and attest to certification that the athlete complies with the eligibility rules of the KHSAA and shall not be eligible under any circumstances for more than one year of athletic participation if the first year period of ineligibility is waived.

**Sec. 2) Additional Eligibility for Exchange Students**

Any student having made election to apply for the waiver of the first year of ineligibility and having been granted a waiver of the normal period of ineligibility under subsection (a) above shall not be eligible, under any circumstances, for more than one (1) school year while enrolled in grades 9 -12 in Kentucky.

**Sec. 3) Students Not Coming Through Exchange Programs**

Any student desiring to participate in athletics who does not meet the criteria listed in Bylaw 7 may seek a waiver of the one-year ineligibility period through the KHSAA Due Process Procedure. *(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**Bylaw 8. Contestant On Other Teams, Post Season and All-Star Games**

Any student who after enrolling in grade nine (9) has been a contestant in football or basketball at any level (grades 9-12) and has eligibility remaining in that sport may not participate on any non-school sponsored team or in any all-star game in that sport or any variation of that sport from the first day of school through the last scheduled contest played in that sport (including KHSAA sanctioned post-season) by that school unless it has been sanctioned by the Board of Control. Following the team's last scheduled game (including post season), there are no restrictions on play in that specific sport for the student-athletes. *(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**Bylaw 9. Other Eligibility Requirements and Regulations**

**Sec. 1) Graduates and College Students**

Any student who has graduated from a secondary school, or who has ever played on a college team, is thereafter ineligible to play on a high school team.

**Sec. 2) Practice of Ineligible Students**

Unless ineligible due to the provisions of Bylaw 11 (Sportsmanship,



having been ejected from a contest), any student who is not eligible for competition during a team's next contest/meet/match/game shall not practice with the team.

#### Sec. 3) Conduct - Student or Other Representative Under Penalty

Any student, contest official or other official school representative who is under penalty or discipline or whose conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school or the KHSAA is not eligible.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### Bylaw 10. Recruitment

#### Sec. 1) Foreword

Pupils (both domestic and foreign) at any grade level shall not be recruited to a member school of the KHSAA for the purpose of participating in athletics, including recruitment under the guise of academics.

#### Sec. 2) Definition

Recruiting is defined as an act, on behalf of or for the benefit of, a school, which attempts to influence a student to transfer to a member school for the purpose of participating in athletics. A school official utilizing an intermediary, such as, but not limited to a peer, another school employee, a student, a parent or a citizen, for the purpose of recruiting a student athlete shall be in noncompliance.

- An athletic coach or any other member of the school staff shall not influence a student even if the student, his/her parents or any intermediary from another school makes the initial contact. In this situation, a coach or staff member (paid or unpaid) should immediately refer the person(s) to the school principal.
- Influencing a student shall include, but shall not be limited to the promise or instilling the expectation of an athletic advantage, playing time, employment of the student or his/her parents or relatives, housing for the student or his/her parents, scholarships or financial aid for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible, or any other material or athletic reward for which other members of the student body are not generally eligible.

#### Sec. 3) Penalty

Any representative of a member school knowingly allowing the recruitment of a student for the purpose of participating in athletics or who should have known of such recruitment shall be guilty of willful neglect of duty, misconduct, and/or breach of contract. Such shall apply not only to coaches, but also to personnel supervising coaches, such as, but not limited to an athletic director, an assistant principal, a principal, an assistant superintendent, a superintendent or a school board member. This regulation shall also apply to students or their parents.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### Bylaw 11. Practice of Sportsmanship

#### Sec. 1) Sportsmanship Obligation

It is the clear obligation of principals, coaches, faculty members, boards of education, and all official representatives of member schools to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition in all interscholastic relationships with fans, officials, players, coaches, official representatives of member schools, and the general public. The Commissioner and the Board of Control shall have the full authority to suspend the coach, student, or any member school whose representatives may be convicted on competent evidence of the violation of this obligation. Any violation of this rule in any interscholastic contest shall be immediately reported to the Commissioner by the principal(s) of the school(s) involved, and by the game officials who work in the contest.

#### Sec. 2) Illegal Equipment

It shall also be considered a violation of this rule if any school or school representative(s) uses or allows the use of illegal equipment which gains a competitive advantage in the contest and which is expressly prohibited by the rules adopted for that sport. Violations of this particular provision may result in penalization by the Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw and in accordance with KHSAA Bylaw 33, Penalties.

#### Sec. 3) Requirement for Reinstatement

Any student, coach, or official team representative ejected from

an interscholastic contest due to a violation of this obligation must be reinstated by a member of the Commission prior to returning to interscholastic contests. Any student or coach using insulting language to another player or coach or to any official in any interscholastic contest, or who has been ruled out of such a contest because of unsportsmanlike tactics, shall be disqualified from athletic competition until reinstated by the Commissioner.

#### Sec. 4) Reporting Requirement and Permanent Suspension

The name of the student or coach shall be reported to the Commissioner by the principal of the school than that student attends. When an official disqualifies a student or coach, he/she shall report the disqualification to the principal or his/her representative and to the KHSAA office. If the Commissioner finds upon investigation that the offense was sufficiently serious, the offender shall be permanently disqualified.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### Bylaw 12. Amateur/Awards

#### Sec. 1) Amateur Status

A student who represents a member school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived from said participation.

An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

- Competing for money or other monetary compensation (allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted);
- Receiving any award or prize of monetary value not approved by this Association;
- Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or other gifts of monetary value not specifically approved by Section 2 or 4 of this rule (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are specifically exempted);
- Signing a professional playing contract in that sport; or
- Accepting a nominal standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground, or camp activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. "Organized youth sports program" includes both school and non-school programs.

#### Sec. 2) Awards

- Awards governed herein and received by a student-athlete while representing a member school include awards received by a student-athlete while enrolled during the academic year as a regular student or awards received by a student-athlete while representing the school at any other time.
- Awards received by a student-athlete participating in an event while not representing the school, shall conform to the regulations of the recognized amateur athletic organization(s) associated with the event. If no such limit exists for the amateur organization, the limit shall be \$300. At no time shall the student-athlete be permitted to receive cash for this type of participation.
- Awards presented by a member school conference, or approved agency must be uniform for all team members receiving the award.

#### Sec. 3) Non-Permissible Awards

The following awards are prohibited:

- An individual may not receive a cash award for athletics participation. An individual may not receive a cash equivalent item (i.e., an item that is negotiable for cash or trace or other services, benefits or merchandise) for athletic participation.
- Gift certificates and merchandise items that cannot be properly personalized shall be prohibited.
- Cash or any other award that an individual cannot receive under these rules may not be forwarded in the individual's name to a different agency or individual.

#### Sec. 4) Type of Awards

- Awards for recognition of interscholastic athletics participation (letter awards) may be presented each year by a member school. In addition, the school may present senior awards and awards in recognition of special attainments or contribution to a team's competitive season (i.e., scholar-athlete, most improved player, etc.)
- Awards for participation in special events (post season

tournaments) and established regional or national recognition awards (Mr./Miss Basketball, All-State, etc.) may be presented only by the management of such an event, awards program, or by a school that has had or will have a team or individual participate in the event/sport.

- c) The total value of any award presented for high school competition shall not exceed \$300, except awards presented by the Association or a member school for participation in KHSAA sponsored events.
- d) Schools or conferences may not present individual awards to student-athletes for specialized performances in particular contests or events or during a limited time period (i.e., "player of the game" or "player of the week"). However, an organization such as a business firm or other outside agency may recognize a student-athlete's outstanding performance in a particular contest or during a particular time by presenting a certificate, plaque or medal valued at less than \$50. It is not permissible for such an organization to provide any other tangible item or award.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### **Bylaw 13. Financial Aid**

#### **Sec. 1) Definitions for this bylaw**

- a) Tuition— means the amount of necessary fees, costs and other charges to attend a member school as determined by that member school's published scale of charges. The tuition at the member school shall be the same for all students in like situation irrespective of participation in athletics and shall not include room and board expenses.
- b) Classification of Schools - means the classification of the member schools as follows: (1) A1- District operated general program or multi-program schools; (2) D1— Kentucky Department of Education operated schools (Blind and Deaf); (3) F1- Federal Dependent Schools; (4) J1- Roman Catholic schools; (5) M1- Other Religious schools and (6) R1-Private non-church related schools.
- c) Public Schools- means the member schools receiving funding from the Kentucky Department of Education or comparable federal sources. Public schools shall include the member schools which are classified as A1, D1 or F1.
- d) Non-Public Schools — means the member schools not receiving funding from the Kentucky Department of Education or comparable federal sources. Those schools shall include the member school which are classified as J1, M1 and R1.
- e) Non-Public School Zone — means the zone to which each non-public school is assigned. The four current non-public school zones are Covington, Lexington, Louisville and Owensboro. These non-public school zones shall be comprised of the counties contained in the geographic alignment related to the archdiocese of the same name.
- f) Non-Public School Governing Board— means the entity having oversight over the member school. For purposes of this bylaw, the "governing board" of a non-public school shall be determined by the school type. For J1 schools, the "governing board" shall be the archdiocese and geographic references shall be the counties included in the non-public school zone of the school. For the R1 and M1 schools, the "governing board" shall be as defined by the governance structure of the institution.
- g) Immediate Family— means the student and the student's father, mother, brother, sister, step-father, step-mother, step-brother, step-sister, husband, wife, aunt, uncle, grandparent.
- h) Financial Aid— means any and all aid given to a student which reduces tuition, including, but not limited to, awards, reductions and waivers.
- i) Need-Based Aid— means the amount of financial aid that an independent financial analysis of the student's financial aid application demonstrates that the student needs to pay tuition to attend a member school, provided such analysis is performed by an agency approved by the Board of Control.
- j) Merit Aid— means financial aid awards given by the member school based solely on academic/test performance which are available to the entire student body through a competitive application process and that the selection of the recipient(s) is based on published objective criteria which may not include

athletic achievement or ability.

- k) Merit Aid Test — means the academic assessment or placement test approved by the Board of Control prior to its administration.
- l) Merit Aid Test Date — means be the date submitted by each member school for the administration of the merit aid test.
- m) Financial Records— means the records related to any financial aid analysis of the student including but not limited to, immediate family's records of the method and sources for all tuition payments.

#### **Sec. 2) Non-Permissible Financial Aid**

A student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if the student:

- a) Receives financial aid beyond the limits defined in Section 1(a) except for merit aid allowed under this bylaw, and waivers of tuition for non-domestic students ruled eligible under Bylaw 6, Section 2 (Foreign Exchange);
- b) Receives merit aid based on an unapproved merit aid test;
- c) Receives merit aid based on a merit aid test not administered on an approved merit aid test date;
- d) Receives merit aid greater than twenty-five percent (25%) of the tuition at the member school;
- e) Receives merit aid from a member school that has already given merit aid to the greater of five (5) percent of its student body or five students;
- f) Receives financial aid that is not available to the entire student body by published objective criteria;
- g) Receives financial aid from a funding source that is not under the custody and control of the member school and/or its governing board;
- h) Receives any financial aid other than the permitted need-based aid or merit aid detailed above from a member school, any other entity governed by that member school's governing board or any representatives of the member school;
- i) Receives any financial aid that is indirectly or directly related to athletic achievement or ability;
- j) Has any part of the financial obligation to the member school paid directly or indirectly by individuals outside of the student's immediate family; or
- k) Does not agree to complete disclosure of financial records as defined in this bylaw upon request of the KHSAA and its officials, employees and agents.

#### **Sec. 3) Financial Aid Restrictions and Reporting**

All member schools shall annually report detailed financial aid information to the KHSAA including, but not limited to:

- a) Tuition schedule and/or other fees applicable to the student body at the member school;
- b) The merit aid test being utilized by the school and the merit aid test date; and
- c) A detailed listing of the amount of financial aid awarded by the member school including but not limited to:
  - 1) The need-based aid each student-athlete is eligible to receive based on the report of the approved independent agency;
  - 2) The merit aid given to each student and the qualifying score used to make the determination;
  - 3) The amount of need-based aid awarded to each student; and
  - 4) A specific listing of the sports in which each student participates.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

## **DIVISION II DUTIES OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS**

### **Bylaw 14. Certification of Eligibility**

#### **Sec. 1) Eligibility Lists**

The principal or Designated Representative of the school shall certify the eligibility of all contestants. Not later than Wednesday of the week preceding the week of the contest, each principal or Designated Representative shall mail to the other, upon request, a statement to the effect that the persons named are eligible, under the rules of the Association, to represent the school on the date specified. This statement shall be made on the standard eligibility blank supplied by the Association. Requests for the exchange of

eligibility blanks may be indicated on the game contract form at the time it is signed.

#### Sec. 2) Verification of Eligibility

Before certifying the eligibility of a player, a principal or Designated Representative shall verify the player's age by referring to the vital statistics records of the state in which the player was born, or in the absence of a state record, the earliest available school enrollment or census record. This requirement shall apply both to original certifications, and to the certification of an athlete who has been received by transfer from another school.

#### Sec. 3) Permission to Change Certification

The statement of facts concerning a player on the eligibility list of his/her first year of competition is to be considered authoritative and may not be changed in later eligibility lists for that year or in later years except to carry out the purposes of the Bylaws in providing a cumulative record, or, when authorized by the Commissioner to correct an error. However, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as waiving the requirement in Section 2 of this bylaw.

#### Sec. 4) Acknowledgment of Receipt of Eligibility Rules

Prior to the certification of the eligibility of a student, the principal or Designated Representative shall have on file the physician's certificate, the parental consent, and the parental acknowledgment required by Bylaw 2.

#### Sec. 5) Unauthorized Change

If an unauthorized change in a certification results in the use of an ineligible player by the school that made the change, the school shall be suspended from the Association as provided for in Section 8 of Bylaw 1.

#### Sec. 6) Duty of a New Principal

A new principal or Designated Representative before certifying to the eligibility of his/her players, if there is reason to question any of the information, shall secure from the Commissioner's office, a copy of the original certification for such players. If failure to observe the requirements of Section 2 or Section 6 of this Bylaw results in the use of an ineligible player, the school involved shall be suspended from the Association as provided for in Section 8 of this Bylaw.

#### Sec. 7) Annual Participation List

Each principal or Designated Representative of a member school shall submit to the Commissioner at the end of the school year a list of the names of all students who participated in any first team contest in any sport during the season. This participation list shall be submitted on a form supplied by the Association, and shall be completed in its entirety for each student.

#### Sec. 8) Certification of Ineligible Player

If any school plays an ineligible player when the facts were available and could have been known upon such investigation as a principal or Designated Representative is expected to make in the case of each of his players, that school shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 33.

If a player enters a contest under an assumed name or when not properly certified, he/she shall be permanently ineligible, and his/her school shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 33.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### Bylaw 15. Requests for Rulings

The principal or Designated Representative shall direct all requests for rulings and interpretations to the Commissioner in writing. In all cases in which players are involved, the names of the players and all possible pertinent information shall be given.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### Bylaw 16. Reporting of Violations, Protests

#### Sec. 1) Reporting of Violations

Any person wishing to report a violation of the KHSAA Constitution, Bylaws or Tournament rules must do so in writing. If such evidence is presented to warrant an investigation, the Commissioner shall ensure that such investigation is performed. The Commissioner's office shall notify the principal or superintendent of the protested school, telling him/her the exact nature of the charges made. If an investigator is appointed to gather evidence in connection with the

protest, he shall provide a copy of the report to the Commissioner, and a copy shall be made a part of the official school records with the Association and shall be made available to the principal or superintendent of the schools involved upon request.

#### Sec. 2) Protests

Protests against the decision of contest officials made during the course of game or meet will not be considered.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### Bylaw 17. Supplying Information

A superintendent, principal, student, and/or Designated Representative shall, when requested, supply the Commissioner with such information as that person may be asked for related to the athletic program at a member school. A failure to comply within a reasonable time may forfeit the school's membership in the Association, or the school may be penalized in accordance with approved Association penalty codes. Each member school shall annually certify that it will comply with any and all of the rulings of the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, Hearing Officer and Board of Control as they relate to the athletic program at a member school. Such compliance shall include but not be limited to student eligibility matters, Board policy directives related to health and safety of student athletes, and other programs as may be instituted by the convened Board of Control. Such certification shall not apply to any matter on review by any court.

### Bylaw 18. Countersigning Contracts

The superintendent, principal or Designated Representative shall countersign all contracts to engage in interscholastic contests.

### Bylaw 19. Submission of Reports

Each principal or Designated Representative shall file with the Commissioner during or at the end of each school year all participation lists and all other reports required by the Association. A membership certificate shall not be issued to any school until the provisions of this bylaw have been fulfilled.

### Bylaw 20. Member of the Faculty to Accompany Team to Contests

The principal or coach or another member of the faculty shall accompany the team to all contests. His/her expenses, when he/she accompanies the contestants, shall be paid in the same manner as those of the contestants.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

## DIVISION III CONTESTS

### Bylaw 21. Rules Governing Contests

National Federation of State High School Association Rules shall govern all contests involving member schools if an official set of rules is issued for that sport.

### Bylaw 22. Specific Sport Regulations

#### Sec. 1) Girls Basketball

The Board of Control shall sanction and sponsor a girls' basketball playoff to determine a state champion.

#### Sec. 2) Comparable NCAA Opportunities

If a member school sponsors or intends to sponsor an athletic activity that is similar to a sport for which NCAA members offer an athletic scholarship, the school shall sponsor the athletic activity or sport for which the scholarships are offered. The athletic activities that are similar to sports for which NCAA members offer scholarships are: Girls fast pitch softball as compared to slow pitch.

To qualify as having "sponsored" a sport, a school must be able to demonstrate the following:

- If similar versions of a particular sport exist and there are differences in the scholarship opportunities at the NCAA level in that sport, a survey must be taken of the student population at reasonable times and places to determine the level of interest in the sport(s).
- If said survey reveals sufficient interest to field the normal squad required for play in the particular sport and if any version of the sport is to be played, the school shall make facilities, staff and other allowances to properly field a team in the version of



the sport for which the NCAA members offer scholarships.  
 Sec. 3) Type of Ball to be Used  
 The molded ball is the official basketball and shall be used in all regular season and tournament games.  
*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### **Bylaw 23. Sanctions**

#### **Sec. 1) Contests Within State**

All contests within Kentucky played by KHSAA member schools shall be governed by the rules and regulations established by the Board of Control including Article VIII of the KHSAA Constitution. Approval for any exemptions must come through the Commissioner. The Commissioner and/or Board of Control will not sanction (approve for play) any meet, tournament, game, or all-star contest unless a member school, conference, group of member schools, or coaches association is the sponsor. The said legal sponsor shall have full control over planning, supervision, and disposition of finances. No member school shall take part in any tournament, game, or contest from which any outside organization derives a financial profit from ticket sales.

#### **Sec. 2) Interstate Contests**

Member schools of the KHSAA shall adhere to all restrictions contained in the National Federation of State High School Associations' sanctioning policy when playing any contest or scrimmage against an out of state opponent.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### **Bylaw 24. Forfeits**

#### **Sec. 1) Use of an Ineligible Player**

When a student is declared ineligible, all contests in which he/she has played while ineligible shall be forfeited to the opposing team.

#### **Sec. 2) Failure to Play a Scheduled Contest**

When a school fails to carry out its contract to play a regularly scheduled contest, the contest shall be forfeited to the offended school.

#### **Sec. 3) Failure to Follow Terms of Contract**

Provisions may be made for a forfeit fee to be paid by the school that fails to follow the terms of a contract. The Commissioner shall suspend from the Association a school that fails to pay during the same season a stipulated forfeit fee, and the suspension shall remain in effect until the Board of Control removes it.

#### **Sec. 4) Liability to Suspended School**

When a contract is canceled by reason of suspension of the school, the Board of Control shall determine the financial liability involving the suspended school.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### **Bylaw 25. Limitation of Seasons**

#### **Sec. 1) General Provisions Concerning All Sports**

##### **a) Loss of School Time**

No school time may be lost for travel to or from, or participation in, any regular season interscholastic athletic contest.

##### **b) Schedule of Contests on Consecutive Days**

Contests shall be scheduled so that there are not four consecutive days of competition on any Monday through Thursday period while school is in session.

##### **c) Specific Definitions for Ending of School**

For all interpretations and regulations concerning the ending of the school year, including restrictions on coaching involvement, the end of the school year shall be defined as the earlier of the last day of school or May 31.

##### **d) Specific Penalties for Violations - Too Many Contests**

Any school violating provisions of this Bylaw by playing too many contests may not be eligible for state championship competition or may be otherwise penalized. For the determination to be made that the limit has been exceeded, it shall be reported in writing and received by the KHSAA prior to 12:01 a.m. (midnight) ET on the first day of the postseason tournament series as established by the KHSAA Memorandum Calendar. If detected and verified, the team exceeding the limit shall be ineligible for postseason play and may be further penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33. If the report is made after that point, the team shall be

penalized in accordance with Bylaw 33 but shall remain eligible for tournament play during the current season.

##### **e) Specific Penalties for Violations - Too Many Scrimmages**

Any school violating scrimmage limitations may be placed on probation, prohibited from participating in preseason scrimmages in that sport for two (2) seasons, and may be prohibited from taking part in KHSAA state championship competition or other penalties in accordance with Bylaw 33. The second violation will result in automatic suspension.

##### **f) Involvement of Members of the Coaching Staff Out of Season**

Members of the high school coaching staff (paid or unpaid) shall not be prohibited from sport specific observation and evaluation (but not coaching) of any player who has played for a grade nine (9) through grade twelve (12) team (freshman, junior varsity, varsity) from the first day of school through the last day of school provided such play is under the direct control of the same local board of education as the coach is employed and provided such play is not in conflict with other KHSAA bylaws.

#### **Sec. 2) Sports Specific Limitations - Baseball - Boys**

a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized baseball practice prior to February 15.

b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.

c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.

d) A maximum of thirty-six (36) games may be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (district).

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

#### **Sec. 3) Sports Specific Limitations - Basketball - Boys and Girls**

a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized basketball practice prior to October 15.

b) Prior to the opening game of regular season play, a basketball team may have only two (2) scrimmages or practice games with players other than members of the squad.

c) Through the 2008-2009 playing season, the first basketball game shall not take place prior to the Monday following Thanksgiving. Beginning with the 2009-2010 playing season, the first basketball game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the state football semifinals.

d) No member school shall play more than twenty-three (23) basketball games during the regular season. A maximum of two (2) tournaments may be included in any manner other than counting each game played against the limit of twenty-three (23) games. Any two tournaments played during the regular season may be counted as one game per tournament against the limit of twenty-three (23) provided that neither tournament necessitates the team playing more than four (4) games. Any game played over the limit of four in any one tournament shall be counted against the limit of twenty-three (23) games.

e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State) which shall be no earlier than the conclusion of the twelfth (12th) regular season playing week and not later than the conclusion of the thirteenth (13th) regular season playing week, depending upon the KHSAA Corresponding Dates Calendar and the scheduling of the state basketball tournaments, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

f) The Board of Control may waive provision(s) (2) and/or (4) of this Bylaw to allow member schools to participate in Hall of Fame Classic contests. Rules on participation in the Classic shall be made by the Board of Control and published in the Athlete Magazine as a part of the official record of the Association.

#### Sec. 4) Sports Specific Limitations - **Cross Country - Boys and Girls**

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two scrimmage or practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first meet of the season shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 8.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of thirteen (13) meets including invitational meets.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned post-season events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

#### Sec. 5) Sports Specific Limitations - **Football - Boys**

- a) Organized practice in pads shall not begin prior to the earlier of August 1 or seven (7) week days (not counting Saturdays and Sundays) prior to the opening day of school (which shall be defined as the day prior to the classes starting for the student body), but under no circumstances can be prior to the last Monday in July. After contact practice (practice in pads) has begun and prior to the first day of classes for the students, no school may conduct multiple on-field practice sessions in pads (e.g., two-a-days or three-a-days) on consecutive days (e.g., two-one two-one format). After the opening day of the school year, no school may conduct multiple on-field practice sessions in pads (e.g., two-a-days or three-a-days) on a day in which school is in session. All schools shall submit all required documentation to verify the proper execution of the practice regulations, including scrimmage, contact, and heat/safety regulations and recommendations.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games per member school (grades 9-12) prior to the opening varsity game of the season with players other than members of the squad.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Friday of NFHS corresponding week 8 (Week 1).
- d) A maximum of ten (10) regular season games may be played and the opportunity to play regular season games shall conclude at the end NFHS corresponding week 17. Any school may play one of the allowable regular season games during Week 0 (NFHS corresponding week 7) provided that the total schedule does not exceed ten (10) regular season games and that the allowable number of scrimmages in subsection 2 is reduced to one. Any KHSAA school that chooses to compete for a district title and is placed in a classification where only four (4) weeks are needed to complete the playoffs may play an additional regular season contest (total of 11 contests), the last of which can be played during the first round of the playoffs for the other classifications:
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- f) Each player, in order to be eligible to participate against another school, shall have taken part in a minimum of ten (10) practice periods extending over a period of ten (10) days during the preceding three weeks.
- g) Every player must have five (5) days of practice without pads to become acclimated to heat conditions immediately prior to the first day of practice in pads.
- h) Each football school may conduct ten (10) practice periods of not more than two (2) hours in length and not more than one practice per day over ten (10) days during the three calendar school weeks following the school's elimination from post-season play in basketball. All equipment authorized by the football playing rules may be used during this period. There

can be no inter-school competition during this period, and all participants must be eligible according to all KHSAA eligibility rules.

In order to conduct the spring practice sessions:

- 1) No student below grade nine may participate nor may seniors participate;
- 2) Dates must be reported to the KHSAA on supplied forms;
- 3) Only students currently eligible by all KHSAA rules including Bylaws 2 through 12 may participate;
- 4) Intr Squad games may be held but shall be counted as one of the ten practice sessions; and
- 5) There shall be no school or coach imposed penalty for any player who chooses not to participate.
- 6) There shall be no mandatory participation by any person on a spring sports eligibility list (or entering any spring sport scrimmage or contest) and no mandatory participation by any other person not appearing on a spring sports eligibility list.
- i) The Board of Control may waive provision(s) (2) and/or (4) of this Bylaw to allow member schools to participate in Hall of Fame and Museum contests. Rules on participation in the Classic shall be made by the Board of Control and published in the Athlete Magazine as a part of the official record of the Association.

#### Sec. 6) Sports Specific Limitations - **Golf - Boys and Girls**

- a) Organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice matches prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place before the Monday eight weeks prior to the Monday of the week of the first round of the KHSAA sanctioned postseason play.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty (20) rounds of golf against other school representatives (minimum nine holes). Any team reaching this limitation shall have its regular season end immediately. Any forfeit fees necessitated by match cancellations after this date shall be paid, and the forfeit win shall NOT be counted against the game limit for the opponents.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned post-season events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

#### Sec. 7) Sports Specific Limitations - **Soccer - Boys and Girls**

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 7.
- d) A season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-one (21) games;
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

#### Sec. 8) Sports Specific Limitations - **Softball - Girls (Fast Pitch)**

- a) Following the opening day of school there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.
- d) A maximum of thirty-six (36) games may be played prior to the beginning of KHSAA state championship tournament competition (district).
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the



exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 9) Sports Specific Limitations - Softball - Girls (Slow Pitch)**

- a) Following the opening day of school there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first game shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.
- d) A maximum of thirty-six (36) regular season games may be played.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 10) Sports Specific Limitations - Swimming - Boys and Girls**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 1.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first meet shall not take place prior to November 15.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of fifteen (15) meets.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned post-season events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or competition during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 11) Sports Specific Limitations - Tennis - Boys and Girls**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to February 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice matches prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday following the conclusion of the second state basketball tournament of that year.
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty-two (22) matches. Any team reaching this limitation shall have its regular season end immediately. Any forfeit fees necessitated by match cancellations after this date shall be paid, and the forfeit win shall NOT be counted against the game limit for the opponents. Any four (4) invitational tournaments shall count as one (1) match each against this limit. All dual matches shall count as one (1) match each against this limit.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned post-season events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 12) Sports Specific Limitations - Indoor and Outdoor Track - Boys and Girls**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to December 1.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets held by each team and such shall be held on or before the Monday of NFHS calendar week 38.
- c) The first meet (indoor or outdoor) shall not take place before the Monday of NFHS Calendar Week 28.
- d) The track season shall consist of a maximum of nineteen (19) meets. All meets, regardless of format or of being indoor or outdoor meets, shall count against the limit of meets.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season outdoor contests season ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the

day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned post-season events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 13) Sports Specific Limitations - Volleyball - Girls**

- a) The first organized practice for the fall varsity (grades 9-12) season shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) scrimmages or practice games prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 6
- d) The season shall consist of a maximum of twenty (20) matches. In any three (3) invitational or other type tournaments, the matches played by a member school shall count as only one match for each tournament.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the Saturday preceding the first KHSAA Tournament (District, Region or State), with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.

**Sec. 14) Sports Specific Limitations - Wrestling - Boys**

- a) Following the opening day of school, there shall be no organized practice prior to October 15.
- b) There shall be no more than two (2) practice meets prior to the first regular season contest of that year.
- c) The first match shall not take place prior to the Monday of Corresponding Week 21
- d) A school may schedule a maximum of seventeen (17) matches in each weight class. Tournaments or contests involving three (3) or more schools shall count as one (1) match toward the match limit.
- e) The opportunity to participate in regular season contests ends at all levels of play (grades 9-12) on the day prior to the first day for varsity level competition in KHSAA sanctioned post-season events, with the exception that the varsity team may practice and play through its elimination from KHSAA sanctioned tournament play. Following elimination, there shall be no further practice or play during the remainder of the academic school year.
- f) The KHSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations will establish official weight classes.

**Sec. 15) Specific Limitations - Other Sport Activities - Cheerleading (Spirit)**

- a) The first organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.
- b) Cheerleaders are limited to a maximum of three competitions during the school year, not including in-game competitions, that each are sponsored by an organization that adheres to and enforces the Stunt Limitations of the National Federation Spirit Guide. This does not include in-game competitions. The KAPOs Sweet Sixteen® and KAPOs At-Large Competitions shall not count toward the three-competition limit. Any preliminary competitions that progress to a district, region, state and/or national level will be considered as one competition.
- c) The opportunity to cheer or enter cheerleading contests ends at all levels (grades 9-12) for that academic year on or before April 1. After April 1, schools are permitted to designate a single two-week tryout period following which there shall be no further practice or competition until the end of the academic school year.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**Bylaw 26. Summer Sports and Sports/Activities**

**Sec. 1) School Team Play in Summer (Non Dead Period)**

Member schools may participate in sanctioned play during the summer to complete spring seasons in baseball, softball, tennis and track and may begin sanctioned regular season play and practice as defined by Bylaw 25 prior to the opening of school in cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, soccer and volleyball. Only participants eligible during the spring semester may compete on the school teams. All KHSAA eligibility rules apply, and full

control of the summer program shall remain with the participating high school and the principal of that school.

Beginning June 1, 2009, students shall not participate in any school vs. school (in any format) competition in football between the earlier of the last day of school and June 1 through June 24. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps and accepted open gym/field activities where no inter-school competition is involved. Students shall not participate in any school vs. school (in any format) competition in boys' basketball between the end of the dead period and July 31. During this period, students may participate in activities such as weight training, skill development, individual camps and accepted open gym/field activities where no inter-school competition is involved.

#### Sec. 2) Summer Dead Period

Students may not receive coaching or training from school personnel (either salaried or non salaried) and school facilities, uniforms, nicknames, transportation or equipment shall not be used each year in any KHSAA sanctioned sport or cheerleading squad during the period beginning with June 25, and going through July 9. School funds may not be expended in support of interscholastic athletics in any KHSAA sanctioned sport during this period. These restrictions shall not apply to postseason wrap-up activities, celebrations and recognition events relating to a spring sports team at a school which participated in KHSAA state championship play in that particular sport during that particular year.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

### **DIVISION IV REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR COACHES AND SCHOOLS**

#### **Bylaw 27. Requirement for Coaches and Others Working With High School Teams**

##### Sec. 1) Definitions

###### a) Level 1 Coaches

An individual seeking a coaching position shall be categorized as Level 1 if such individual is a certified teacher and member of the regular school system faculty and meets the following criteria prior to assignment to coaching duties:

- 1) Is employed a minimum of three (3) regular periods for teaching classes, including physical education;
- 2) Is employed for supervision of study halls; and/or
- 3) Is exercising responsibilities in other activity assignments within the school schedule.

###### b) Level 2 Coaches

An individual seeking a coaching position shall be categorized as Level 2 if such individual meets the following criteria prior to assignment to coaching duties and does not meet the qualifications of Level 1:

- 1) Shall be 21 years of age;
- 2) Shall not be a violent offender or convicted of a sex crime as defined by KRS 17.165 that is classified as a felony; and
- 3) Shall submit to a criminal record check under KRS 160.380.
- 4) Shall meet one of the following additional qualifications:
  - i. Have graduated from a public or accredited high school and hold a provisional or standard teaching certificate;
  - ii. Have completed sixty-four semester hours of college credit from an accredited college or university as documented by an official transcript; or
  - iii. Be a graduate from a public or accredited high school and be in compliance with the local district standards for serving as an approved substitute teacher as approved by the Education Professional Standards Board.

5) Prior to assuming duties, Level 2 coaches shall successfully complete training provided by the local school district. The training shall include, but not be limited to, information on the physical and emotional development of students of the age with whom the Level II coach will be working, the district's and school's discipline policies, procedures for dealing with discipline problems, and safety and first aid training. Follow up training shall be provided annually.

###### c) One-time Waiver

In the event that the member school is unable to staff head or assistant coaching positions in any sport or sport activity (including cheerleading) with a Level 1 or Level 2 individual, the member school may request through the Superintendent that the KHSAA allow for a one-time waiver of this rule in order that the additional time be available to find an applicant meeting the criteria.

###### d) Head Coach

As referred in this regulation, the head coach shall be the head varsity coach designated by the school and/or Board of Education unless otherwise noted in the bylaw.

#### Sec. 2) Hiring and Employment Requirements

##### a) Required Level

Level 1 or 2 individuals (head and assistant) may be assigned as the head or assistant coach in any sport or sport activity (including cheerleading).

##### b) Member School Obligations in Hiring

- 1) The Superintendent shall ensure that all assignments for coaching duties comply with all applicable state and local policies.
- 2) The hiring process shall ensure that in considering those individuals seeking coaching duties, the most qualified individual shall be assigned. In considering qualifications, the qualifications desired for the position, the references, interviews and experience of those seeking the duties, and the education background shall be considered.

##### c) Compensation

Any person assigned to coaching duties at any level (grades 9-12) shall be duly employed through the respective board of education and the entire coaching salary shall be paid through such board in accordance with local Board of Education policy.

#### Sec. 3) Post Hire Requirements and Requirements for Continuing Coaching Duties

##### a) C.P.R.

All coaches (head and assistant) at any level in all sanctioned sports and sport activities (including cheerleading) shall provide documentation of successful completion of a C.P.R. course, as approved by a college or University, the American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other bona fide accrediting agency, and such shall be timely and appropriately updated as required by the approving agency.

##### b) Kentucky Coaches Education Program

1) The Kentucky Coaches Education Program has been approved as the coaching education program in Kentucky. Such program shall include an eight-hour course of study to include a KHSAA approved Coaches Education Program, KHSAA rules information and local district policies. All course requirements for certification in the coaching education program, including completion of the exam to be graded and registered with the Kentucky Coaches Education Program, shall be completed prior to the start of the competitive season. The cost of attending the KHSAA Kentucky Coaches Education Program will be the responsibility of the individual coach(es). Local school districts or local schools may, upon successful completion of all coaching education requirements including all examinations, reimburse the coaches for the expense of attending the course.

2) Level 1 individuals assigned to duties as a coach (head and/or assistant), who are hired as a member of the school system faculty for the first time following the 1995-96 school year shall take and complete all requirements for the Kentucky Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

3) Level 2 individuals assigned to duties as a coach (head and/or assistant) shall take and complete all requirements for the Kentucky Coaches Education Program as detailed in Section b(1) above within one year of the initial assignment to coaching duties or prior to the legal start of practice for the next competitive season in any particular sport to which the individual is assigned, whichever occurs first.

c) Medical Symposium

- 1) All persons employed as head coaches in all sanctioned sports and sport activities (including cheerleading) shall attend every two years, a Sports Medicine Symposium sanctioned by the KHSAA, approved and conducted by the Kentucky Medical Association.
- 2) All member schools of the KHSAA shall pay the necessary expenses of coaches for the required attendance at the sanctioned Sports Medicine Symposium.
- 3) The penalty for noncompliance with this section may be 1) Suspension from coaching duties in all contests for a period not to exceed one year; 2) Suspension from coaching duties in KHSAA sanctioned postseason play for a period not to exceed one year; or 3) any penalty otherwise included in Bylaw 33.

d) KHSAA Rules Clinic

- 1) All head varsity coaches shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which they coach and the school desires to enter a team in postseason play, provided such clinics are conducted under the authorization of the Commissioner.
- 2) The penalty for noncompliance with this section may be 1) Suspension from coaching duties in all contests for a period not to exceed one year; 2) Suspension from coaching duties in KHSAA sanctioned postseason play for a period not to exceed one year; or 3) any penalty otherwise included in Bylaw 33.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**Bylaw 28. Distribution of Tournament Profits**

In any regular season tournament, at least seventy-five percent of the net profit shall be distributed among the participating schools. An expense allowance shall be given to each participating school for transportation, meals, and lodging.

**DIVISION V**

**REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS FOR OFFICIALS**

**Bylaw 29. Officials Division of the Association**

Sec. 1) Officials Who Must License

Any person who officiates in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball (slow and fast pitch), swimming, volleyball and wrestling in grades 9 through 12 between member schools of the Association must be licensed by the Commissioner and must carry an official card indicating such licensing. All officials in baseball, basketball, football and softball are required to join a local officials association as described in the KHSAA Officials' Guidebook.

Sec. 2) Clinics

Each official licensed with the KHSAA shall annually attend at least one rules interpretation clinic conducted by representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which he or she is licensed.

Sec. 3) Cancellation of License

The KHSAA may cancel or refuse the license renewal of any official in any sport for just cause.

Sec. 4) Acceptance of Assignments

An official shall accept assignments in the amount of time and in the manner prescribed by the local official's association to which he/she belongs. The penalty for an official's failure to work an assigned game, unless providentially prevented from doing so, may be cause for up to a one-year suspension in that sport.

Sec. 5) Violation of Contracts

The Board of Control will protect both the officials and the schools against violations pertaining to assignments.

Sec. 6) Local Policy Boards/Committees

The Commissioner may establish as many bureaus as deemed necessary in each sport in order to assign officials to games in accordance with the Federal Court Decree of 1971.

Sec. 7) Governance

The Officials Guidebook, published annually by the Association, shall govern all officials licensed with the KHSAA.

**Bylaw 30. Coaches Not to Officiate**

Coaches or persons connected with the competing schools shall not officiate at contests, unless the written consent of all competing schools is given.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**Bylaw 31. Use of Licensed Officials**

Only officials licensed with the Officials Division of the Association shall be assigned or employed to officiate in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball or wrestling in all competition involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12). The Commissioner must approve exceptions to this policy in writing.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*

**DIVISION VI**

**OTHER RELATED ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

**Bylaw 32. Agreement Regarding Professional Baseball Contracts**

No student of a high school which is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations shall be signed to a professional baseball contract until the day following his graduation, or if he has left school, until the day following the graduation of his class; nor shall any representative of professional baseball initiate or participate in any negotiations which would violate such boy's high school athletic eligibility; except that a boy out of school one year or longer may, with the consent of his parents, apply to the Baseball Commissioner for permission to sign a contract and if, in the judgment of the Baseball Commissioner, the circumstances justify it, he shall approve the application and so notify all clubs. Such a player may be signed to a professional contract fifteen (15) days subsequent to the day of the Baseball Commissioner's notice. Any school whose employee or official encourages or collaborates in negotiations that violate this agreement shall be suspended from the KHSAA for a period to be determined by the Board of Control.

**Bylaw 33. Imposition of Penalties**

Sec. 1) Authority to Penalize

When Association rules and regulations have been violated, penalties may be imposed on the offending schools or individual by the Commissioner's office, the KHSAA Hearing Officer and/or the Board of Control. Each member school of the KHSAA through its Principal shall ensure that its athletic program remains compliant with KHSAA rules.

For violation of any rule or regulation by any member school or school designated staff, student-athlete, official, or other representative, such penalty as may be called for under the specific rule or regulation, or, in case no specific penalty is called for, such disciplinary action, including warning, reprimand, probation, suspension, and/or payment of a fine may be imposed by the Commissioner's office or Board of Control.

a) FINE

A fine may be levied in lieu of, or in addition to, any other penalty imposed upon the school and may only be levied against a member school. The Board of Control shall adopt a schedule of fines and publish said schedule annually in the Association Handbook. The fine schedule shall also include any amounts paid by the Association and/or received by the school as a result of postseason competition. A fine shall not be levied against any individual within the interscholastic athletic program but may only be levied against the member school and only for selected violations as determined by the Board of Control.

b) FORFEIT

The forfeit of contests/meets may be included in penalties assessed for violation of Association rules.

c) WARNING

A warning may be issued which is written notification that a violation, or an inexcusable or unethical action, has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such action must not be repeated.

d) LETTER OF REPRIMAND

A written reprimand of the individual, program, or school may be issued if a violation of the rules has occurred which was preventable. The action is a matter of record, and warnings that repeat actions of this type will be cause for further penalty.

e) PROBATION

Probation is a more severe penalty and may be described in the following manner. Normally, an individual or a school on probation is on conditional Association membership, but may engage in their/its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and district, regional and state championships. This is provided



that the individual and/or school has taken steps to insure the problem which placed the individual, sport or school on probation has taken steps to alleviate the problem which caused the probation. Additionally, a school on probation may be restricted to limits on contests/scrimmages as may be deemed appropriate.

f) **SUSPENSION**

An individual participant, coach, specific sport or school may be suspended from competition or from scrimmage participation. This penalty may range from the elimination of individual and/or team(s) participation in games, tournaments, meets or state championship competition, to suspension of the school from the Association. Individuals and/or teams suspended may not engage in contests with member schools of the Association, or with any other school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

g) **RESTITUTION**

A fine may be levied equal to the amount of itemized legal fees expended by the Association in defense of its rules in a court of law in cases where a school or school system is directly or indirectly involved in the legal challenge of an association rule which has passed via the proper Constitutional process and in which case, the Association prevails in court. If the Association, its Commissioner, or other persons associated or employed by the Association are named as a party, or if the Association intervenes in any action to enforce a ruling, bylaw or other provision, it shall be presumed that the school where the student attends or the coach or such other person is employed or is otherwise associated or connected, is involved in the legal challenge. The presumption of involvement may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence. Such involvement includes but is not limited to, providing testimony, staff, staff legal counsel and/or funds for such counsel, or direct filings by or on behalf of the school or school system.

If the Association conducts an investigation regarding any player, coach, assistant coach, paraprofessional, booster, supporter or other person associated with a team, program or member school, and the investigation results in any penalty being imposed by the Association, the school may be required to pay all costs of such investigation. Such costs may include, but are not limited to, the costs, fees and expenses charged by an investigator, and the costs, fees and expenses charged by the Association's legal counsel.

h) **PERMANENT SUSPENSION**

Any coach, participant or other school representative may be permanently suspended from involvement in interscholastic athletics in this state if found by competent and conclusive evidence to be guilty of assaulting a sports official.

i) **REDISTRIBUTION**

If a school is found to have used an ineligible competitor and as an extension to the fine penalty listed above, it may be directed that a portion or all of the net proceeds received from a postseason contest or tournament be returned to the host and/or redistributed to the other contest or tournament participants.

j) **VACATE/STRIKE**

If a school is found to have used an ineligible competitor, it may be directed that 1) Individual records and performances be vacated or stricken; 2) Team records and performances including place finishes be vacated or stricken; and/or 3) Individual or team awards be returned to the Association.

*(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)*